

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method for providing a computer user with an accessible electronic  
 2 dictionary system, the method comprising:  
 3 receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an electronic document;  
 4 accessing information regarding context of the word derived from within the  
 5 electronic document in which the word appears;  
 6 accessing a definition of the word;  
 7 storing the definition of the word along with the context information for the word;  
 8 and  
 9 enabling access by the computer user to the definition and the context  
 10 information.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the context information includes at least one  
 2 word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic document from which  
 3 the context information was retrieved.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling access to a definition  
 2 and context information for one or more other words that are related to the word when  
 3 enabling access to the definition and context information for the word.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling access to the definition and the  
 2 context information for the word includes displaying context information from more than  
 3 one electronic document in which the word has appeared.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining a selectable level of  
 2 detail for the definition to be retrieved.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
 2 identifying a target community appropriate for the computer user inputting the  
 3 data request action; and  
 4 selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one  
 5 available definition based on the target community identified.

1           7. The method of claim 6 wherein:  
2           identifying the target community includes determining the target community  
3           based on identification information for the computer user, and  
4           selecting one or more definitions for display based on the target community.

1           8. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification  
2           information based on an Internet Protocol address of the computer user.

1           9. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification  
2           information based on a screen name of the computer user.

1           10. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification  
2           information based on a user profile of the computer user.

1           11. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information for  
2           the word is stored in a manner designed to enable mobile access.

1           12. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information are  
2           stored in a manner to enable future use by a computer user other than the computer user  
3           responsible for generating the data request action.

1           13. An electronic dictionary comprising:  
2           definitions for one or more words identified from within an electronic document  
3           that is distinct from the electronic dictionary; and  
4           context information for at least one of the words based on information regarding  
5           context of the word from within the electronic document.

1           14. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the context information  
2           includes at least one word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic  
3           document from which the word was identified.

1           15. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary  
2           includes definitions and related context information for more than one word identified by  
3           a single user.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the single user is defined as a single  
2 electronic identity.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as an  
2 Internet Protocol address.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as a  
2 screen name.

1 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary includes definitions  
2 and related context of information for at least one word identified by each of more than  
3 one related identity.

1 20. A method for using an electronic dictionary to retrieve information related to  
2 a word appearing in an electronic document, the method comprising:

3 receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an accessed electronic  
4 document;

5 accessing at least one definition of the word and context information regarding  
6 context of the word derived from within a different electronic document in which the  
7 word also appeared; and

8 enabling a display of the definition and the context information.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the different electronic document from  
2 which the context information was derived was previously viewed by a party submitting  
3 the data request action.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition includes accessing  
2 the definition for more than one word.

1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display includes enabling the  
2 display of the context information derived from within more than one different electronic  
3 document in which the word also appeared.

1           24. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display of the context  
2 information includes enabling the display of at least one word that is positioned adjacent  
3 to the word within the different electronic document in which the context information  
4 was derived.

1           25. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition and context  
2 information includes accessing information stored relative to a single requesting user.

1           26. The method of claim 20 further comprising enabling selection of a level of  
2 detail for the context information related to the word to be displayed in response to the  
3 data request action.

1           27. The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
2 identifying a target community appropriate for a party inputting the data request  
3 action; and  
4 selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one  
5 available definitions based on the target community identified.

1           28. The method of claim 27 wherein selecting among the definitions includes  
2 selecting based on a relationship between the target community identified and the context  
3 information.

1           29. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing includes retrieving a portion of  
2 the definition and the context information for the word from storage.

1           30. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving multiple words  
2 and corresponding contexts from storage.

1           31. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving the definition  
2 and the context information from among multiple instances of context information stored  
3 for the word in storage.

1           32. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the context information includes  
2     accessing the context information from a device that is distinct from a device generating  
3     the data request action.

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